



**City of Barberton**  
576 W. Park Ave., Barberton, Ohio  
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**William B. Judge**  
Mayor

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **CITY OF BARBERTON RECEIVES AWARD OF \$1,245,908 FEDERAL & STATE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY GRANT FOR 15<sup>TH</sup> ST. N.W. AND ARTHUR ST. HAZARD MITIGATION PROJECT**

**Barberton, OH** (October 28, 2020) - Mayor William B. Judge is pleased to announce that the City has been awarded \$1,245,908.00 in competitive grant dollars from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the State of Ohio Emergency Management Agency for the acquisition and demolition of up to eighteen (18) residential properties located on 15<sup>th</sup> St. N.W., near Wolf Creek and three (3) residential properties located on Arthur Street. Similar to the previously awarded 14<sup>th</sup> St. NW project, the subject areas have a long history of flood related property loss and this demolition effort will return the properties, which are located in a 100 year floodplain, to perpetual greenspace and their natural environment.

City of Barberton administration officials met with residents of 15<sup>th</sup> St. N.W. and Arthur St. and received a voluntary participation commitment from the majority of eligible property owners. The cooperation of the area homeowners was crucial in creating a project that was not only successfully awarded, but also creates future flood mitigation opportunities for the west side neighborhood.

Mayor Judge stated, "This is great news for our community and is a continuation of our commitment to mitigate storm water in flood prone areas with aggressive projects such as this. I'm pleased that the residents of 15<sup>th</sup> St. N.W. and Arthur St. are being given an opportunity to relocate their residence and avoid the anxiety that exists by residing in a floodplain. This grant involved numerous years of hard work by our administration, the collaboration of several agencies, and the commitment of the affected property owners," stated Mayor Judge.

City officials will be reaching out to participants in the near future with project details and timelines. Under the grant agreement, the City is required to commit \$177,986.00 in local matching funds, which can partially be provided through in-kind administrative services.

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